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Note: Web Audio [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/multimedia/ui\\_041027.mp3](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/multimedia/ui_041027.mp3)

## SEPTEMBER LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

**Madison** – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that 62 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have a lower unemployment rate in September 2004 than they had in September 2003, while seven saw higher rates and three were unchanged.

"While we continue to see improvements in the state's labor market, it is clear that improvements must be made in certain areas of the state," Secretary Gassman said. "We shouldn't be satisfied with these numbers, when so many continue to struggle from the job losses over the past four years."

Last week, DWD announced that the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased between August and September. Of Wisconsin's eleven metropolitan statistical areas, four had slightly lower seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in September than they experienced in August, four were unchanged and three saw increases.

Using unadjusted figures, 65 counties experienced lower unemployment rates in September than they had experienced in August, while 5 were unchanged and 2 saw their rates go up. It is seasonal, and therefore common, for unemployment rates to drop in Wisconsin in September as many seasonal employees move on to school, or other activities as the fall and winter seasons approach. With a smaller labor force and fewer people looking for seasonal work, the unemployment rate drops. Thus, even though the number of jobs in Wisconsin decreased slightly between August and September, the unemployment rate also decreased. Employers have a harder time finding employees for the short-term seasonal jobs of the fall and winter season. The labor force decreases slightly, the number of jobs decreases slightly and the number of employed also decreases. Counties where colleges are located or are close by, often see employment increase as the school year begins.

There continue to be wide disparities between metropolitan areas in Wisconsin. For example, Racine, Janesville, Beloit, Kenosha and Milwaukee continue to have very high unemployment rates, some of the worst among Metropolitan areas in the nation, while Madison and LaCrosse are near the best in the nation.

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Thirty-seven counties had unemployment rates lower than 4.0 percent, and five of those were below 3.0 percent. Dane County at 2.2 percent, Buffalo and Ozaukee counties at 2.6 percent, Iowa County at 2.8 percent, and La Crosse County at 2.9 percent were the state's low unemployment rate counties.

By region of the state, the lowest September unemployment rates were seen in the south central area and the southwestern area. The southeastern area and the northern area saw the state's highest unemployment rates. The highest county unemployment rate in the state was estimated for Menominee at 8.7 percent, followed by Oconto at 7.3 percent, Juneau at 6.8 percent, Racine at 6.0 percent and Milwaukee at 5.9 percent.

Although the state has been seeing some very modest recovery in manufacturing, the counties with large percentages of their population employed in production work continue to experience fairly high unemployment rates signaling the difficulties manufacturing industries have experienced over the past few years.

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## Employment and Labor Force Household Survey

<b>Unadjusted estimates</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
Total labor force	3,099,800	3,145,900	3,073,800
Employed	2,973,300	3,006,900	2,929,800
Unemployed	126,500	139,000	144,100
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.4%	4.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.4%	5.8%

<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
Total labor force	3,116,300	3,115,600	3,089,300
Employed	2,961,400	2,965,300	2,916,800
Unemployed	154,900	150,300	172,600
Wis. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.8%	5.6%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.4%	6.1%

<i>*State current mo. Area prior mo.</i>	<b>Unemployment % seasonally adjusted</b>	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
27 <sup>th</sup>	Wisconsin	5.0	4.8	5.6
75 <sup>th</sup>	Appleton-Oshkosh	4.2	4.3	5.0
96 <sup>th</sup>	Eau Claire	4.7	4.8	5.1
80 <sup>th</sup>	Green Bay	4.4	4.3	4.7
239 <sup>th</sup>	Janesville-Beloit	6.2	6.2	6.6
173 <sup>rd</sup>	Kenosha	5.4	5.4	5.9
25 <sup>th</sup>	La Crosse	3.7	3.6	4.1
5 <sup>th</sup>	Madison	2.6	2.5	2.9
204 <sup>th</sup>	Milwaukee-Waukesha	5.0	5.1	5.9
280 <sup>th</sup>	Racine	6.7	6.7	8.1
50 <sup>th</sup>	Sheboygan	3.9	3.9	4.7
60 <sup>th</sup>	Wausau	4.1	4.3	4.6

- This is the latest available data for the U.S.'s 331 largest metro areas. Urban rankings are NOT seasonally adjusted. Lower is better. Ties are shown only if existing with other Wisconsin urban areas; ties with urban areas in other states are not shown, but are available upon request. Rankings are by the U.S. Labor Department and are based on unadjusted data for the previous month, while the rates shown above for Wisconsin metropolitan areas are seasonally-adjusted and for the current month.
- \*\*State ranking is seasonally adjusted
- \*Metropolitan ranking is not seasonally adjusted and is for the prior month

Source \*Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

**WISCONSIN COUNTIES**  
**Unemployment Rates**  
**September 2004**  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
9	ADAMS	5.4%	5.5%	12	3.7%	62	MARATHON	3.2%	3.6%	59	3.6%
13	ASHLAND	4.8%	6.2%	8	5.7%	10	MARINETTE	5.2%	5.3%	15	6.0%
19	BARRON	4.3%	4.6%	28	4.8%	12	MARQUETTE	4.9%	5.0%	18	6.3%
30	BAYFIELD	4.1%	4.8%	21	4.2%	1	MENOMINEE	8.7%	10.9%	1	9.5%
43	BROWN	3.8%	3.9%	47	4.1%	5	MILWAUKEE	5.9%	6.3%	7	6.8%
71	BUFFALO	2.6%	2.7%	71	3.6%	49	MONROE	3.6%	3.8%	50	5.3%
35	BURNETT	4.0%	4.2%	39	3.3%	2	OCONTO	7.3%	7.3%	2	8.5%
67	CALUMET	3.0%	3.2%	66	3.9%	28	ONEIDA	4.2%	4.1%	42	4.3%
20	CHIPPEWA	4.3%	4.5%	32	4.3%	42	OUTAGAMIE	3.8%	3.9%	46	4.3%
31	CLARK	4.1%	4.6%	27	4.6%	70	OZAUKEE	2.6%	2.8%	70	4.1%
26	COLUMBIA	4.2%	4.5%	30	4.7%	36	PEPIN	3.9%	4.9%	19	3.7%
56	CRAWFORD	3.4%	3.8%	49	4.0%	45	PIERCE	3.7%	3.8%	53	3.5%
72	DANE	2.2%	2.3%	72	2.5%	32	POLK	4.1%	4.5%	29	5.0%
23	DODGE	4.2%	6.0%	10	4.7%	52	PORTAGE	3.5%	4.6%	25	3.5%
41	DOOR	3.8%	3.9%	45	5.7%	47	PRICE	3.6%	4.0%	43	4.9%
18	DOUGLAS	4.3%	4.9%	20	4.6%	4	RACINE	6.0%	6.6%	6	7.1%
65	DUNN	3.0%	3.4%	63	3.3%	21	RICHLAND	4.3%	4.3%	35	3.5%
60	EAU CLAIRE	3.2%	3.7%	54	3.6%	7	ROCK	5.6%	5.8%	11	5.8%
6	FLORENCE	5.8%	6.7%	5	7.1%	16	RUSK	4.6%	4.8%	23	4.7%
44	FOND DU LAC	3.7%	4.6%	26	4.4%	63	SAUK	3.2%	3.2%	67	3.2%
24	FOREST	4.2%	4.8%	22	4.6%	59	SAWYER	3.3%	3.5%	61	4.0%
57	GRANT	3.3%	3.8%	48	3.8%	38	SHAWANO	3.9%	4.2%	37	4.5%
53	GREEN	3.5%	3.7%	55	4.6%	55	SHEBOYGAN	3.5%	3.5%	62	4.1%
40	GREEN LAKE	3.9%	3.7%	57	4.6%	33	ST. CROIX	4.1%	4.3%	34	5.4%
69	IOWA	2.8%	2.9%	69	2.9%	37	TAYLOR	3.9%	4.4%	33	3.6%
14	IRON	4.8%	6.1%	9	5.6%	61	TREMPEALEAU	3.2%	3.6%	58	4.3%
66	JACKSON	3.0%	3.3%	64	3.1%	54	VERNON	3.5%	3.7%	56	4.2%
27	JEFFERSON	4.2%	4.5%	31	4.0%	50	VILAS	3.6%	3.8%	51	3.7%
3	JUNEAU	6.8%	7.1%	4	7.7%	64	WALWORTH	3.1%	3.3%	65	3.4%
15	KENOSHA	4.8%	5.0%	17	5.2%	22	WASHBURN	4.3%	4.3%	36	5.1%
34	KEWAUNEE	4.1%	4.2%	40	5.5%	48	WASHINGTON	3.6%	3.9%	44	4.2%
68	LA CROSSE	2.9%	3.1%	68	3.2%	58	WAUKESHA	3.3%	3.6%	60	4.0%
46	LAFAYETTE	3.6%	4.1%	41	4.7%	39	WAUPACA	3.9%	4.2%	38	4.7%
8	LANGLADE	5.4%	7.1%	3	7.0%	29	WAUSHARA	4.1%	5.0%	16	5.0%
25	LINCOLN	4.2%	4.7%	24	5.1%	51	WINNEBAGO	3.6%	3.8%	52	4.3%
11	MANITOWOC	5.1%	5.4%	13	7.0%	17	WOOD	4.3%	5.3%	14	4.7%

**WISCONSIN CITIES**  
**Unemployment Rates**  
**September 2004**  
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
9	APPLETON CITY	5.3%	5.5%	12	5.9%
2	BELOIT CITY	8.4%	8.9%	2	8.7%
27	BROOKFIELD CITY	2.8%	3.0%	26	3.8%
20	EAU CLAIRE CITY	4.0%	4.5%	20	4.2%
14	FOND DU LAC CITY	4.7%	5.8%	9	6.0%
22	FRANKLIN CITY	3.9%	4.0%	23	4.3%
5	GREEN BAY CITY	6.3%	6.4%	5	6.7%
21	GREENFIELD CITY	3.9%	4.1%	22	4.7%
6	JANESVILLE CITY	6.2%	6.3%	6	6.2%
7	KENOSHA CITY	6.0%	6.0%	8	6.4%
23	LA CROSSE CITY	3.8%	4.2%	21	4.2%
28	MADISON CITY	2.5%	2.6%	28	2.7%
4	MANITOWOC CITY	6.3%	6.6%	4	8.6%
26	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	2.9%	3.0%	27	3.6%
3	MILWAUKEE CITY	8.1%	8.7%	3	9.2%
8	NEENAH CITY	5.6%	5.6%	11	6.8%
25	NEW BERLIN CITY	3.0%	3.4%	25	3.7%
16	OAK CREEK CITY	4.6%	4.8%	17	5.3%
19	OSHKOSH CITY	4.0%	4.5%	19	4.7%
1	RACINE CITY	10.3%	11.3%	1	11.4%
17	SHEBOYGAN CITY	4.6%	4.7%	18	5.4%
12	STEVENS POINT CITY	4.8%	6.1%	7	5.1%
18	SUPERIOR CITY	4.4%	5.2%	16	5.1%
13	WAUKESHA CITY	4.8%	5.3%	15	5.4%
11	WAUSAU CITY	5.0%	5.4%	13	5.0%
24	WAUWATOSA CITY	3.5%	3.5%	24	3.8%
15	WEST ALLIS CITY	4.7%	5.3%	14	5.3%
10	WEST BEND CITY	5.2%	5.8%	10	6.9%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development  
 Bureau of Workforce Information